There has been a steady improvement in the major efficiency indicators of these Ports. The comparative figures of these indicators during the last five years are given below:

	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
1. Average pre-berthing waiting time on Port account (days)	1.7	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.5
2. Average turn round time (days)	7.5	6.3	5.7	5.1	4.1
3. Average output per ship berth day (Tonnes)	4497	4912	5167	5871	6701

During the 10th Five Year Plan, it is proposed to enhance capacity and improve productivity with focus on measures aimed at modernisation, rendering cost effective services, enhancement of service quality, commercialisation through corporatisation and increased private sector participation in major ports.

Reduction of time and cost in shipment

414. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether delays in shipments and additional costs make out exports uncompetitive; and

(b) the steps taken / reforms introduced to improve the situation resulting in lower costs and reduction of time in shipment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Evolving plans, policies and procedures to facilitate shipments and to reduce time and transaction cost for exports is a continuous process and is undertaken by various Ministries of the Union Government. Ministry of Shipping has taken steps to improve efficiency at ports by way of their modernization/mechanization better managerial practices removing congestion, improving rail/road connectivity. Department of Commerce have commissioned studies pertaining to dwell time and airports,

ports and ICD/CFS. The other measures include simplification of Customs procedures, setting up of ICDs/CFSs/Air cargo Complexes etc. to identify the bottlenecks for corrective measures.

New Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme

415. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a new Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Schemes (IVBSS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the scheme will come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) With an aim to reduce capital burden on prospective IWT entrepreneur, thereby enhancing their profitability and making IWT tariff competitive, an Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme has recently been approved by the Government. The scheme will come into effect from 1.4.2002 and remain in force for a period of 5 years. The Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme would be applicable to both cargo & passenger inland vessels meant for operation on National Waterways. The subsidy will be available only for vessels acquired by an Indian inland water transport entrepreneur from a shipyard in India. The subsidy payable under this scheme would be equal to 30% of the ex-factory price of the inland vessel.

Development of Consortium of Ports

416. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been received from the Kolkata Port Trust for development of a ""Consortium of Ports" in South Asia under the auspices of Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Myanmar, Sri Lanka-Economic Co-operation (BITMS-EC) to facilitate trade activities between these member countries;

(b) if so, the details of the various proposals received and the action taken thereon; and